

In both cases, those stream-enterers have previously attained the cessation of the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions, but are not presently abiding on the uninterrupted path that eliminates the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

In view of those possible arguments, some scholars hold that Vasubhandu's statement indicates that stream-enterers born from type to type possess two characteristics:

1. They do not temporarily eliminate any mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing.
2. They are able to generate the first, second, and third supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation, which irrevocably eliminate the first, second, and third (big-big, medium-big, and small-big) types of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm respectively, only *after* they achieve the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the first three (big-big, medium-big, small-big) types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. They are able to generate the fourth, fifth, and sixth supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation, which irrevocably eliminate the fourth, fifth, and sixth (big-medium, medium-medium, and small-medium) types of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm respectively, only *after* they achieve the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the middling three (big-medium, medium-medium, and small-medium) types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. And they are able to generate the seventh, eighth, and ninth supramundane uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation, which irrevocably eliminate the seventh, eighth, and ninth (big-small, medium-small, and small-small) types of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm respectively, only *after* they achieve the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the last three (big-small, medium-small, and small-small) types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

The first characteristic refutes the existence of *stream-enterers born from type to type* who have temporarily eliminated the fifth type of innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing, while the second characteristic refutes the existence of *stream-enterers born from type to type* who previously temporarily or irrevocably eliminated the fifth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and who are now abiding on the fifth supramundane uninterrupted path which irrevocably eliminates the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. Regarding the second characteristic, *stream-enterers born from type to type* are not able to generate the fifth supramundane uninterrupted path which irrevocably eliminates the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm after they eliminate the fifth but not the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm because, as mentioned above, the second characteristic of *stream-enterers born from type to type* is that they are unable to generate the fifth supramundane uninterrupted path which irrevocably eliminates the fifth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm before having eliminated the fourth, fifth, and sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm.

Stream-enterers born from type to type can be classified into two groups:

- (I) Stream-enterers born from celestial type to [celestial] type
- (II) Stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type

(I) *Stream-enterers born from celestial type to [celestial] type*

Stream-enterers born from celestial type to [celestial] type (*rgyun zhugs lha'i rigs nas rigs skye*) will take two or three rebirths as celestial beings of the Desire Realm and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the last of those rebirths.

There are six types of celestial beings of the Desire Realm:

1. [Celestial Beings of the] Four Great Kings [Realm] (Skt.: *catur maharajakayikah*, Tib.: *rgyal chen rigs bzhi*)
2. [Celestial Beings of the] Thirty-Three [Realm] (Skt.: *trayastrimsah*, Tib.: *sum bcu rtsa gsum*)
3. [Celestial Beings of the] Without Combat [Realm] (Skt.: *yamah*, Tib.: *'thab bra*)
4. [Celestial Beings of the] Joyful [Realm] (Skt.: *tushita*, Tib.: *dga' ldan*)
5. [Celestial Beings of the] Delighting in Emanation [Realm] (Skt.: *nirmanaratayah*, Tib.: *'phrul dga'*)
6. [Celestial Beings of] Controlling Others' Emanations [Realm] (Skt.: *paranirmitavasavartinah*, Tib.: *gzhan 'phrul dbang byed*)

Stream-enterers born from celestial type to [celestial] type can take two or three rebirths in any of those six states.

They may, for instance, first take rebirth as celestial beings of the Thirty-Three [Realm], then as celestial beings of the Joyful [Realm], and lastly as celestial beings of the Without Combat [Realm]. During their last rebirth they attain self-liberation.

(II) *Stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type*

Stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type (*rgyun zhugs mi'i rigs nas rigs skye*) will take two or three rebirths as human beings and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the last of those rebirths.

In general, there are four human states of existence:

1. Humans of the Eastern Continent called 'the Continent of [Those With] Superior/Large Bodies' (Skt.: *purvavideha*, Tib.: *shar lus 'phags po*),
2. Humans of the Southern Continent called 'the Continent of the Rose-Apple or *Jambu* Fruit' (Skt.: *jambudvīpa*, Tib.: *lho 'dzam bu gling*)
3. Humans of the Western Continent called 'the Continent of Using Cattle' (Skt.: *aparagodaniya*, Tib.: *nub ba blang spyod*)
4. Humans of the Northern Continent called 'the Continent of Unpleasant Sound' (Skt.: *uttarakuru*, Tib.: *byang sgra mi snyan*)

Please note that humans born on planet Earth are considered to be humans of the Southern Continent.

Stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type do not necessarily have to be reborn in the same human existence. They could be reborn either as humans of the Eastern, Southern, or Western Continent. However, there are no *stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type* who are reborn as humans in the Northern Continent. The reason for this is that humans of the Northern Continent experience great enjoyments which are too distracting to be able to generate renunciation. *Stream-enterers born from human type to [human] type* may take rebirth, for instance, first as humans of the Eastern Continent, then as humans of the Western Continent, and eventually as humans of the Southern Continent. During their last rebirth as humans of the Southern Continent they attain the result of foe-destroyer.

2) *Abiders in the result of stream-enterer who are Simultaneous-Eliminators*

Abiders in the result of stream-enterer who are Simultaneous-Eliminators (*spang bya cig char ba'i rgyun zhugs 'bras gnas*) are stream-enterers who simultaneously and irrevocably eliminate both the different types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm *and* their supramundane counterparts. This means that their first supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation simultaneously and irrevocably eliminates the first type of both mundane *and* supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, their second supramundane uninterrupted path of the path of meditation simultaneously and irrevocably eliminates the second type of both mundane *and* supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, and so forth.

Therefore, regarding the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, *abiders in the result of stream-enterer who are Simultaneous-Eliminators* do not temporarily eliminate the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm with a mundane uninterrupted path (of the preparatory stage of the first concentration), nor do they irrevocably eliminate the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm with any of the first five uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation. Likewise, they do not temporarily eliminate the *ninth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm with a mundane uninterrupted path (of the preparatory stage of the first concentration), nor do they irrevocably eliminate the *ninth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm with any of the first eight uninterrupted paths of the path of meditation.

Therefore, as mentioned before, *abiders in the result of stream-enterer who are Simultaneous-Eliminators* will not attain the results of once-returner and non-returner. Subsequent to the result of stream-enterer they only achieve the result of foe-destroyer.